

REMARKS**1.) Drawings**

Figures 1, 2 and 4-5 stand objected to. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Figures 1-2 and 4 should be designated by a legend "Prior Art" and thus have attached Replacement Sheets herewith to replace those original sheets depicting Figures 1-2 and 4. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's indication that Figure 5 should also have the same designation based on the description of such Figure by paragraph 43 and related paragraphs 41-42 on page 13 of the present patent application.

2.) Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1, 15, 23, 30, 32, 35-37, 43, 45, 48 and 50 to overcome the Examiner's rejections and to have proper dependency. Also, claims 3, 22, 31 and 44 are cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-21, 23-30, 32-43 and 45-55 are pending in the present patent application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-19, 30, 39, 42-43, 49 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,374 issued to Fawaz et al. (hereinafter "Fawaz"). The Examiner also indicates each of claims 3, 22, 31 and 44 contains allowable subject matter and such indication is greatly appreciated. In response, Applicant has amended (a) independent claim 1 by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 3, which is now cancelled, (b) independent claim 15 by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 22, which is now cancelled (c) independent claim 30 by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 31, which is now cancelled and (d) independent claim 43 by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 44, which is now cancelled. Accordingly, these amended independent claims

1, 15, 30 and 43 and their respective dependent claims should now be patentably distinguishable over Fawaz.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-2, 4-21, 23-30, 32-43 and 45-55 are presently standing in this patent application. In view of the foregoing remarks, each and every point raised in the Office Action mailed on September 15, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in this patent application to be in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections are respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner believe that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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